

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4029

DEPT PLEASE PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: XA, XJ, MO, OAU
SUBJ: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' VIEWS OF SAHARA ISSUE IN
THE OAU

REF: RABAT 3910

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S AND ACTING DCM'S MEETING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA JULY 1, HE COMMENTED ON UPCOMING
KHARTOUM OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES,
TO WHICH HE LEADING MOROCCAN DELEGATION BEGINNING JULY 7.
BOUCETTA STATED THAT MOROCCAN PREFERENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN
TO SETTLE THE SAHARA ISSUE AT KHARTOUM, AS KING HASSAN
HAD INDICATED PUBLICLY. UNFORTUNATELY, SITUATION WAS
NOT YET RIPE FOR DEFINITIVE SOLUTION WITHIN OAU. THERE
WAS RELUCTANCE AMONG AFRICANS TO PLACE SAHARA ON KHARTOUM
AGENDA. ALSO, NO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON THE SAHARA
WAS NOW TO BE TACKED ON TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS. ONE
CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN THAT KHARTOUM MEETINGS WERE
UNLIKELY TO INCLUDE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE
TO SATISFY REQUIREMENT THAT SPECIAL SAHARA MEETING SHOULD
BE A SUMMIT. IN ADDITION, A TWO-THIRDS VOTE WOULD BE
NEEDED TO SOLVE THE SAHARA PROBLEM, AND MOROCCO COULD
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PRESENTLY NOT COUNT ON THIS DEGREE OF SUPPORT.
IN ANY CASE, MOROCCO OF COURSE CONSIDERED THE SAHARA
ISSUE SOLVED, AND THAT SELF-DETERMINATION HAD ALREADY
OCCURRED IN THE SAHARA. GOM THEREFORE LOOKED TO THE OAU
IN ESSENCE TO RATIFY THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS.

2. TRENDS WERE NEVERTHELESS POSITIVE FOR MOROCCO,

DESPITE RECENT RECOGNITIONS OF SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BY SMALL RADICAL AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE AND CONGO, BOUCETTA CONTINUED. HE CITED THE FIGURE OF UP TO 19 AFRICAN STATES SUPPORTING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, WITH ONLY HALF AS MANY BEHIND THE POLISARIO AND SDAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, REMAINING AFRICAN STATES TENDED TO ABSTAIN ON SAHARA ISSUE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED, AND MODERATES NEEDED TO WORK ON THEM. MOROCCO WAS COORDINATING WITH FRIENDLY AFRICAN STATES, CURRENTLY WITH MALI AND TOGO, FOR EXAMPLE. BOUCETTA EXPECTED TOGO TO WITHDRAW ITS RECOGNITION OF THE SDAR.

3. MOROCCO HAD DECIDED TO TAKE A NEW, MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH ON THE SAHRA AND WOULD GO ON THE OFFENSIVE AT KHARTOUM, BOUCETTA CONCLUDED. MOROCCO'S DIPLOMATIC AIM REMAINED TO KEEP THE SAHARA ISSUE IN THE OAU, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE UNGA AGAIN TO DEFER ON THE ISSUE TO THE OAU. MAJOR THEME TO BE PURSUED BY BOTH MODERATES AND RADICALS WOULD BE THAT AFRICANS CAN AND SHOULD SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, BOUCETTA PREDICTED.
ANDERSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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